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- (74) Agent: GILL JENNINGS & EVERY; Broadgate House, 7 Eldon Street, London EC2M 7LH (GB).
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- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): BIO-COMPATIBLES LIMITED [GB/GB]; Chapman House, Farnham Business Park, Weydon Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8QL (GB).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): HUGHES, Gerald, Laurence [IE/GB]; Biocompatibles Limited, Chapman House, Farnham Business Park, Weydon Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8QL (GB). VICK, Terrence, Albert [GB/GB]; Biocompatibles Limited, Chapman House, Farnham Business Park, Weydon Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8QL (GB). WANG, Jin, Hai [GB/GB]; Biocompatibles Limited, Chapman House, Farnham Business Park, Weydon Lane, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8QL (GB).
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(54) Title: COATED IMPLANTS

(57) Abstract: An implant, usually a stent, has a coating of a cross-linked water swellable polymer matrix preferably having a dry thickness of at least 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$ , and a pharmaceutically active compound, the polymer having pendant cationic and pendant zwitterionic groups. The active is usually an anionic compound such as a nucleic acid. The polymer is preferably formed from 2-methacryloyloxyethyl-2'-trimethylammoniummethyl phosphate inner salt, trialkylammoniumalkyl(meth)acrylate and a cross-linkable monomer such as  $\omega$ -(trialkoxysilyl)alkyl(meth)acrylate, optionally with a termonomer such as a higher alkyl (meth)acrylate. The stent is coated with polymer, cross-linked then contacted with a solution or dispersion of active compound in a solvent which swells the polymer whereby the active is absorbed into the polymer matrix. The stent is delivered by usual means into a body lumen and the active is released over an extended period of time into the wall of the lumen and/or fluid flowing therein.

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